

Adoptive Cell Therapy for Patients With Metastatic Melanoma: Evaluation of Intensive Myeloablative Chemoradiation Preparative Regimens

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ABSTRACT

Purpose

The two approved treatments for patients with metastatic melanoma, interleukin (IL)-2 and dacarbazine, mediate objective response rates of 12% to 15%. We previously reported that adoptive cell therapy (ACT) with autologous antitumor lymphocytes in lymphodepleted hosts mediated objective responses in 51% of 35 patients. Here, we update that study and evaluate the safety and efficacy of two increased-intensity myeloablative lymphodepleting regimens.

Patients and Methods

We performed two additional sequential trials of ACT with autologous tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) in patients with metastatic melanoma. Increasing intensity of host preparative lymphodepletion consisting of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine with either 2 (25 patients) or 12 Gy (25 patients) of total-body irradiation (TBI) was administered before cell transfer. Objective response rates by Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST) and survival were evaluated. Immunologic correlates of effective treatment were studied.

Results

Although nonmyeloablative chemotherapy alone showed an objective response rate of 49%, when 2 or 12 Gy of TBI was added, the response rates were 52% and 72% respectively. Responses were seen in all visceral sites including brain. There was one treatment-related death in the 93 patients. Host lymphodepletion was associated with increased serum levels of the lymphocyte homeostatic cytokines IL-7 and IL-15. Objective responses were correlated with the telomere length of the transferred cells.

Conclusion

Host lymphodepletion followed by autologous TIL transfer and IL-2 results in objective response rates of 50% to 70% in patients with metastatic melanoma refractory to standard therapies.

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INTRODUCTION

Patients with metastatic melanoma have a median survival of 8 months and 2-year survival rates of 10% to 15%. There are two treatments approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for patients with metastatic melanoma, interleukin (IL)-2 and dacarbazine, which mediate objective response rates of approximately 15%.¹

We recently reported that the adoptive transfer of autologous tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) after lymphodepleting chemotherapy resulted in objective responses in 51% of 35 heavily pretreated patients with metastatic melanoma.^{2,3} This adoptive cell therapy (ACT) used tumor antigen-specific

lymphocytes that were initiated in vitro from single-cell enzymatic digests or small fragments of resected tumor specimens and expanded to large numbers before infusion. TIL from metastatic melanoma lesions comprise an enriched source of tumor-antigen reactive cells.⁴ Optimization of methods for their isolation and expansion to large numbers for therapy⁵⁻⁷ have made the application of ACT logistically feasible.

In our prior clinical trial, patients received a lymphodepleting, nonmyeloablative (NMA) chemotherapy consisting of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine before cell transfer.³ In murine models, lymphodepletion seemed to enhance the anti-tumor effects of transferred T cells in vivo by

several mechanisms including the elimination of suppressive CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T-regulatory lymphocytes,⁸ the elimination of cellular "sinks" for homeostatic cytokines such as IL-7 and IL-15,⁹ and the engagement of toll-like receptors on antigen-presenting cells after damage to the integrity of the gut epithelial lining.¹⁰ In these same murine models, there was a direct relationship between the extent of lymphodepletion and the magnitude of the *in vivo* anti-tumor effect of the transferred cells.^{11,12}

These preclinical findings led us to perform two pilot clinical trials in patients with metastatic melanoma to test whether intensifying the lymphodepletion by adding either 2 or 12 Gy of total-body irradiation (TBI) to the chemotherapy conditioning regimen would improve the therapeutic results of ACT. The results of these trials and studies of the mechanism of action of lymphodepletion form the basis of this article.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Patients

Patients were eligible for this trial if they were 18 years of age or older with measurable metastatic melanoma and a clinical performance status of 0 or 1 on the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scale and life expectancy of greater than 3 months. Patients were excluded from participation if blood counts were outside the normal range, if systemic steroid therapy was required, or if patients had other active systemic infections, coagulation disorders or other active major medical or cardiovascular diseases or immunodeficiencies, or were positive for HIV antibody or hepatitis B or C. All patients signed an informed consent approved by the institutional review board of the National Cancer Institute.

Clinical Trial Design

We previously reported the results of 35 patients who received TIL transfer after a NMA lymphodepleting regimen consisting of cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg/d for 2 days and fludarabine 25 mg/m²/d for the next 5 days (Fig 1A). Two additional trials were instituted with the end points of evaluating improved response rates and survival. In the next pilot trial, 25 patients received this chemotherapy over 5 rather than 7 days followed by a single fraction of 2 Gy of TBI. In a third trial, 25 patients received the same 5 days of chemotherapy plus 12 Gy of TBI administered as 2 Gy twice a day for 3 days (Fig 1A). Some patients who met immunologic and clinical criteria were not eligible to receive TBI because of prior radiation therapy or an inability to collect adequate CD34⁺ stem cells. Eight additional patients were subsequently treated with the original NMA regimen without TBI, and the results in this entire cohort of 43 NMA-only patients are updated here with a median follow-up of 45 months.

For the 2-Gy TBI regimen, patients underwent clinical simulation for TBI that included measurement of maximum separation, typically at mid-hip. TBI was delivered with the patient positioned supine on a gurney with arms placed by the sides for lung compensation. No additional tissue compensators were used. Treatment was delivered at 2-Gy fractions with 15-MV photons delivered at a distance of 6 meters to the patient's midline at a dose rate of 0.11 Gy/min. For the 12-Gy TBI regimen, a computed tomography simulation was performed to allow planning for head, neck, and lung compensators. TBI was delivered with opposed lateral fields as described for the 2-Gy regimen with the addition of compensation. Mediastinal boosting of tissues underdosed as a result of lung compensation was accomplished with anterior-posterior and posterior-anterior 6-MV beams to obtain a final dose of 12 Gy to the total body and mediastinum while limiting the median lung dose to 6 Gy. All fields were treated twice daily with at least a 6-hour interfraction interval over 3 consecutive days. All patients received a single dose of ondansetron 0.15 mg/kg intravenously before delivery of TBI as nausea prophylaxis.

On the day after the final dose of chemotherapy or TBI, patients received a bolus intravenous infusion of TIL over 0.5 to 1 hour, and started high-dose

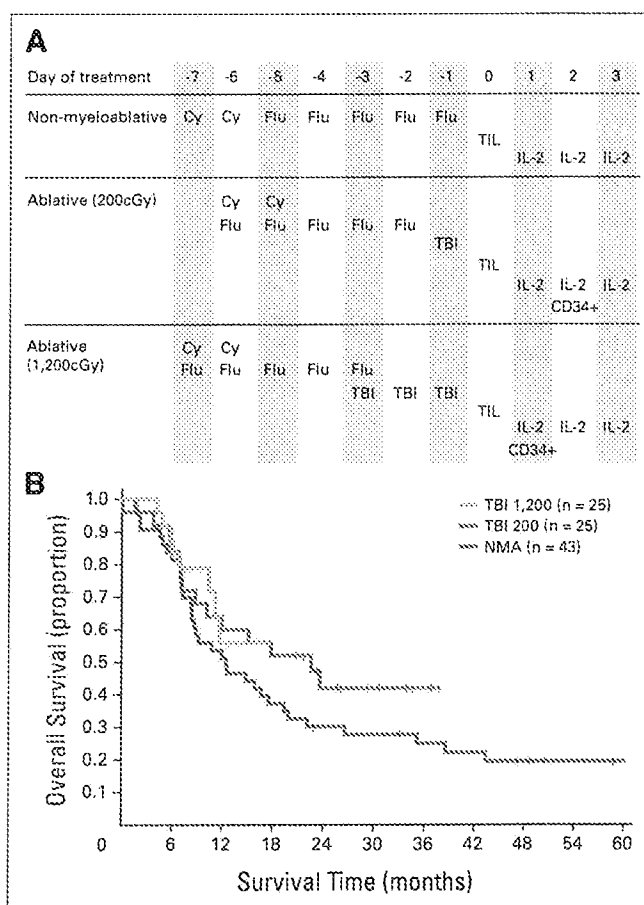


Fig 1. (A) Schedule of treatments administered for three lymphodepleting cell transfer regimens. (B) Kaplan-Meier plot showing the duration of survival of patients treated on each lymphodepleting cell transfer protocol. Vertical tick marks indicate patients who are still alive and on study. Cy, cyclophosphamide; Flu, fludarabine; TBI, total-body irradiation; CD34⁺, hematopoietic stem cells; TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes; IL-2, interleukin.

IL-2 within 24 hours (720,000 U/kg intravenously every 8 hours to tolerance up to 15 doses). One or 2 days after TIL infusion, a minimum of 2×10^6 /kg of autologous purified (Miltenyi Biotech, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany) cryopreserved CD34⁺ hematopoietic stem cells from a granulocyte colony-stimulating factor-mobilized pheresis were infused intravenously in only patients who received TBI.

After TIL infusion, all patients received trimethoprim, sulfamethoxazole, and fungal prophylaxis; herpes virus-seropositive patients received valacyclovir. Patients were monitored daily after TIL infusion and received platelets or packed RBCs as needed. Patient response was assessed using standard radiographic studies and physical examination at 4 weeks after cell administration and at regular intervals thereafter, and were categorized into complete, partial, or nonresponders based on Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST) guidelines.

TIL Cultures and Immunologic Monitoring Assays

TIL cultures for patient treatment were generated as previously described.^{3,13} The phenotype of TIL was determined by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis and the antigen specificity was assessed by cytokine-release assays using standard methods.^{3,13} The mean length of telomere repeats at chromosome ends in individual T-cell cultures was measured by quantitative flow-fluorescent *in situ* hybridization as previously described.¹⁴

Serum was collected from patients and frozen before initiation of therapy and after lymphodepletion but before cell infusion. Sera were thawed and

assayed at the same time in a blinded fashion using commercially available enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay kits.

Statistical Analysis

Standard statistical methods are cited in the text, and all *P* values are two-tailed assuming unequal variance, with *P* < .05 considered significant.

RESULTS

Adoptive Cell Therapy After Lymphodepletion-Mediated Potent Antitumor Responses in Patients With Refractory Melanoma

The characteristics of the patients enrolled onto these three trials are shown in Table 1. Patients in the three clinical trials received a similar number and quality of TIL that had been selected for antitumor reactivity and then rapidly expanded to large cell numbers and infused immediately after collection.

The objective antitumor responses and durations of response are summarized in Table 2. The response rates in the NMA trial (*n* = 43), the NMA plus 2-Gy trial (25 patients), and the NMA plus 12-Gy trial (*n* = 25) were 48.8%, 52.0%, and 72.0% respectively. Tumor regression was seen in metastases at virtually all visceral and soft tissue sites including brain. Thus, the high response rates seen in the additional 58 patients reported here who received ACT with the NMA with or without additional TBI conditioning extend and confirm the high objective response rate reported by us earlier in 35 patients who received TIL transfer after the NMA conditioning regimen.³ Among these 93 patients, 34 patients (37%) had received prior chemotherapy (the response rate in this group was 62%) and 77 patients (83%) had received prior IL-2 therapy (the response rate in this group was 56%).

Among the 10 patients who achieved a complete response, there have been no relapses with a median follow-up of 31 months. According to the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging system, of the 10 patients who experienced a complete response, two patients were stage M1a (metastases to cutaneous, subcutaneous, and nodal sites only), four patients were stage M1b (metastases to the lung), and four patients were stage M1c (metastases to other visceral and distant sites).

The median follow-up as of January 1, 2008, for the three trials was 45, 27, and 10 months, respectively. The 2-year survival rates were 30% and 42%, respectively, in the trials involving no TBI or 2-Gy TBI (Fig 1B), and follow-up was too short in the 12-Gy trial. In these sequential studies, there was no significant difference in survival among the three treatment groups (*P* = .13), although more prolonged follow-up is necessary.

Treatment Characteristics

The characteristics of the treatments administered to patients are shown in Table 3. All infused TIL demonstrated specific recognition of autologous melanoma or human leukocyte antigen-A2 matched melanoma lines by cytokine-release assays (Appendix Tables A1-A3, online only). Multiple features of the infused TIL cultures were evaluated for correlation with patient response, but the only treatment characteristic that was significantly correlated with clinical outcome was the number of IL-2 doses tolerated by patients. The responding patients in the 2-Gy trial tolerated significantly less IL-2 (6.9 doses) than nonresponding patients (9.3 doses; *P* = .01). The 52 responding patients from all three clinical trials tolerated significantly less IL-2 than the 41 nonresponding patients (*P* < .001). These results could suggest that

Table 1. Characteristics of Patients Enrolled Onto Lymphodepleting Protocols

Characteristic	NMA (<i>n</i> = 43)		TBI-2 (<i>n</i> = 25)		TBI-12 (<i>n</i> = 25)		Total (<i>N</i> = 93)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sex								
Male	26	60	17	68	16	72	61	66
Female	17	40	8	32	7	28	32	34
Age, years								
11-20	2	5	0	0	1	4	3	3
21-30	3	7	3	12	2	8	8	9
31-40	8	19	5	20	6	24	19	20
41-50	16	37	9	36	4	16	29	31
51-60	12	28	8	32	12	48	32	34
61-70	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	2
ECOG PS								
0	33	77	20	80	19	76	72	77
1	10	23	5	20	6	24	21	23
Prior treatment								
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surgery	43	100	25	100	25	100	93	100
Chemotherapy	22	51	7	28	5	20	34	37
Radiotherapy	15	35	6	24	2	8	23	25
Hormonal	1	2	0	0	1	4	2	2
Immunotherapy	42	98	24	96	21	84	87	94
Any 2 or more	43	100	25	100	22	88	90	97
Any 3 or more	27	63	9	36	6	24	42	45

Abbreviations: NMA, nonmyeloablative group; TBI-2, 2-Gy total-body irradiation group; TBI-12, 12-Gy total-body irradiation group; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status.

Table 2. Frequency and Duration of Objective Responses

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TBI	Total No. of Patients	PR										CR			OR											
		No.	%	Duration (months)								No.	%	Duration (months)	No.	%										
None*	43	17	39.5	64+	32+	20+	29	28	14	13	11	8	7	4	3	3	2	2	4	9.3	63+	58+	48+	47+	21	48.8
2 Gy	25	11	44.0	33+	29+	23+	14	10	6	5	5	4	3	3					2	8.0	37+	25+			13	52.0
12 Gy	25	14	56.0	14+	13+	10+	7+	7+	7+	6+	6+	4+	7	6	6	4	3		4	16.0	17+	15+	13+	8+	18	72.0

NOTE. All patients received cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg \times 2 days + fludarabine 25 mg/m² \times 5 days.

Abbreviations: TBI, total-body irradiation; PR, partial response; CR, complete response; OR, objective response; TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes.

TIL that are effectively engaged in antitumor responses are releasing secondary cytokines into the host's circulation that limit IL-2 tolerance compared with TIL in noneffective interactions.

Toxicities of Treatment

Patients exhibited the expected hematologic toxicities associated with the cyclophosphamide, fludarabine, and TBI preparative regi-

mens. Patients recovered marrow function rapidly after cell infusion with absolute neutrophil counts greater than 500/mm³ by day 12 and sustained platelet counts greater than 20,000/mm³ by day 14 (except for four patients on the 12-Gy TBI protocol with platelet recovery on days 16, 17, 20, and 22). Patients conditioned with 12-Gy TBI demonstrated on average a 1- to 2-day delay in marrow recovery compared with other protocol patients (Appendix Fig A1, online only) and

Table 3. Treatments Administered After TBI Preparative Regimens

Treatment	TBI Dosage			
	2 Gy		12 Gy	
	PR + CR (n = 13)	NR (n = 12)	PR + CR (n = 18)	NR (n = 7)
Cell number				
$\leq 3 \times 10^{10}$	1	1	3	1
3×10^{10} - 5×10^{10}	2	5	1	2
5×10^{10} - 7×10^{10}	5	3	7	2
7×10^{10} - 9×10^{10}	4	1	2	2
$> 9 \times 10^{10}$	1	2	5	0
% of TIL				
CD3 ⁺ CD8 ⁺	82.1	74.9	86.0	60.5
Standard deviation	18.2	25.2	12.8	31.0
CD3 ⁺ CD4 ⁺	19.4	28.8	8.8	19.0
Standard deviation	18.5	28.0	10.2	26.3
CD3 ⁺ CD56 ⁺	0.0	0.0	2.5	3.1
Standard deviation	0.0	0.0	3.1	5.7
% of CD8 ⁺				
A2/MART-1-27-35+	19.6	3.4	2.8	1.8
Standard deviation	27.7	6.4	8.1	2.4
A2/gp100-209-217+	1.4	1.3	2.2	6.5
Standard deviation	3.2	3.3	3.3	9.7
Antigen specificity*				
MART-1 or gp100	5	6	5	4
Autologous only	6	6	10	2
Both	1	1	3	1
HLA-A*0201				
Yes	9	8	13	6
No	3	4	5	1
IL-2 doses, No.†				
3-4	2	0	1	1
5-6	3	1	7	3
7-8	4	3	8	3
9-10	4	4	2	0
> 10	0	4	0	0

Abbreviations: TBI, total-body irradiation; PR, partial response; CR, complete response; NR, nonresponse; TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes; HLA, human leukocyte antigen; IL, interleukin.

*TIL specificity was defined by cytokine release assay.

†Responding and nonresponding patients in the 2-Gy group received statistically different amounts of IL-2 ($P = .006$).

required significantly more blood-product support than patients treated with 2-Gy TBI (Table 4; P for platelets = .002; P for RBC = .05). Patients experienced the usual reversible and transient toxicities associated with IL-2 that have been extensively described elsewhere.¹⁵ The significant grade 3 and 4 treatment-related toxicities that were not associated with IL-2 administration in the two TBI protocols are shown in Table 4. Not surprisingly, both the spectrum and the intensity of toxicities were less severe in these patients who received autologous cells than those of toxicities reported in patients undergoing myeloablative conditioning regimens with allogeneic stem-cell transplantation and chronic immunosuppression. For instance, among the 50 patients who received TBI conditioning, only one patient, who received 2-Gy TBI, experienced significant pulmonary toxicity, consisting of pulmonary veno-occlusive disease refractory to steroids. This patient subsequently responded to sildenafil therapy, improved, and returned to work as a nurse, although she sometimes requires oxygen by nasal cannula when exerting. One patient who received 2-Gy TBI and four patients who received 12-Gy TBI required intubation for somnolence. Four patients who received 12-Gy TBI developed renal dysfunction attributed to thrombotic microangiopathy with elevated serum creatinine levels, though those have stabilized. There was one treatment-related death in the 2-Gy TBI protocol resulting from sepsis in a neutropenic patient who had a pre-existing but unrecognized diverticular abscess at protocol enrolment. One patient in the 12-Gy TBI group developed grade 3 posterior uveitis that was refractory to topical steroids. MART-1 tetramer-positive lymphocytes were recovered from the patient's ocular vitreous fluid during an acute uveitis phase accompanied by visual changes. The patient's uveitis symptoms resolved after intraocular steroid injections and treatment with diazoxide.

Table 4. Transfusions and Grade 3 and 4 Nonhematologic Toxicities Associated With Nonmyeloablative Plus TBI Lymphodepleting Preparative Regimens

Transfusions and Toxicities	No.	
	2-Gy TBI (n = 25)	12-Gy TBI (n = 25)
Transfusions administered		
Platelets (6-10 U/transfusion)	3.8	8.1
Standard deviation	3.4	4.4
Packed RBCs	4.0	6.2
Standard deviation	3.7	4.0
Infection-related toxicities		
CMV infection	1	1
Herpes zoster	1	2
Positive blood cultures	2	4
Other toxicities		
Intubated for somnolence	1	4
Pulmonary hypertension	1	0
Febrile neutropenia	12	16
Jugular venous thrombosis	1	0
Autoimmune uveitis and hearing loss (transient)	0	1
Thrombotic microangiopathy	0	4
Death (bowel-perforation sepsis)	1	0

Abbreviations: TBI, total-body irradiation; CMV, cytomegalovirus.

Cellular Correlates of Response in Patients Receiving ACT

As in our prior report of patients receiving ACT with the lymphodepleting chemotherapy regimen alone, there was no significant correlation between a large number of phenotypic markers in the infused lymphocytes and clinical response. There was, however, a strong correlation between the likelihood of response across all preparative protocols and the mean telomere length of the infused cells (Fig 2A). This observation suggests that the proliferative potential of infused TIL is an important attribute of their ability to mediate tumor destruction in the patient.

Increased Lymphodepletion Was Associated With Increased Circulating Levels of the Homeostatic Cytokines IL-7 and IL-15

The role of serum cytokines in the antitumor efficacy of lymphocytes administered after lymphodepletion was investigated. Serum was sampled before initiation of the lymphodepleting preparative chemotherapy and immediately before cell administration (after lymphodepleting therapy), and circulating levels of the T cell homeostatic regulatory cytokines, IL-7, and IL-15 were quantified by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (Fig 2B). The starting levels of homeostatic cytokines were similar for all three populations studied. Lymphodepletion caused an elevation of the levels of IL-7 and IL-15 for all protocols. The ratio of the final concentration to the initial concentration of serum cytokines increased significantly more when patients received 12-Gy TBI than when they received NMA chemotherapy alone (P for IL-7 = .02; P for IL-15 = .005).

DISCUSSION

Nonspecific therapies including IL-2 therapy and CTLA-4 blockade can lead to durable complete responses, but these agents have low response rates (12% to 15%) in patients with melanoma. Active therapeutic immunization has been vigorously pursued in clinical trials using a host of tumor vaccines, but these have elicited disappointing response rates.¹⁶ In contrast, in mouse studies and in early clinical studies in patients with melanoma, the direct transfer of activated T cells in lymphodepleted hosts has proven to be a potent method for the treatment of established metastases.

In previous reports, we investigated the use of no or minimal immunosuppression in 86 patients,¹⁷ or NMA chemotherapy for lymphodepletion in 35 patients³ with metastatic melanoma before administration of tumor reactive TIL cells and high-dose IL-2 therapy. Without significant lymphodepletion, a response rate of 34% was seen, but many of these were of short duration. An NMA cyclophosphamide-fludarabine regimen transiently depleted circulating lymphocytes and was associated with a higher response rate as well as improved response durations. Those studies demonstrated the safety and potential efficacy of ACT after minimal or NMA lymphodepletion in patients with melanoma. However, accumulating data from animal models of tumor therapy suggested that increased levels of lymphodepletion could improve ACT efficacy.^{10-12,18}

Here, we examined the use of increased intensity lymphodepletion with TIL administration and IL-2 therapy in two sequential phase II protocols. Initially, we evaluated the safety and efficacy of adding 2-Gy TBI to the NMA chemotherapy preparative regimen, together

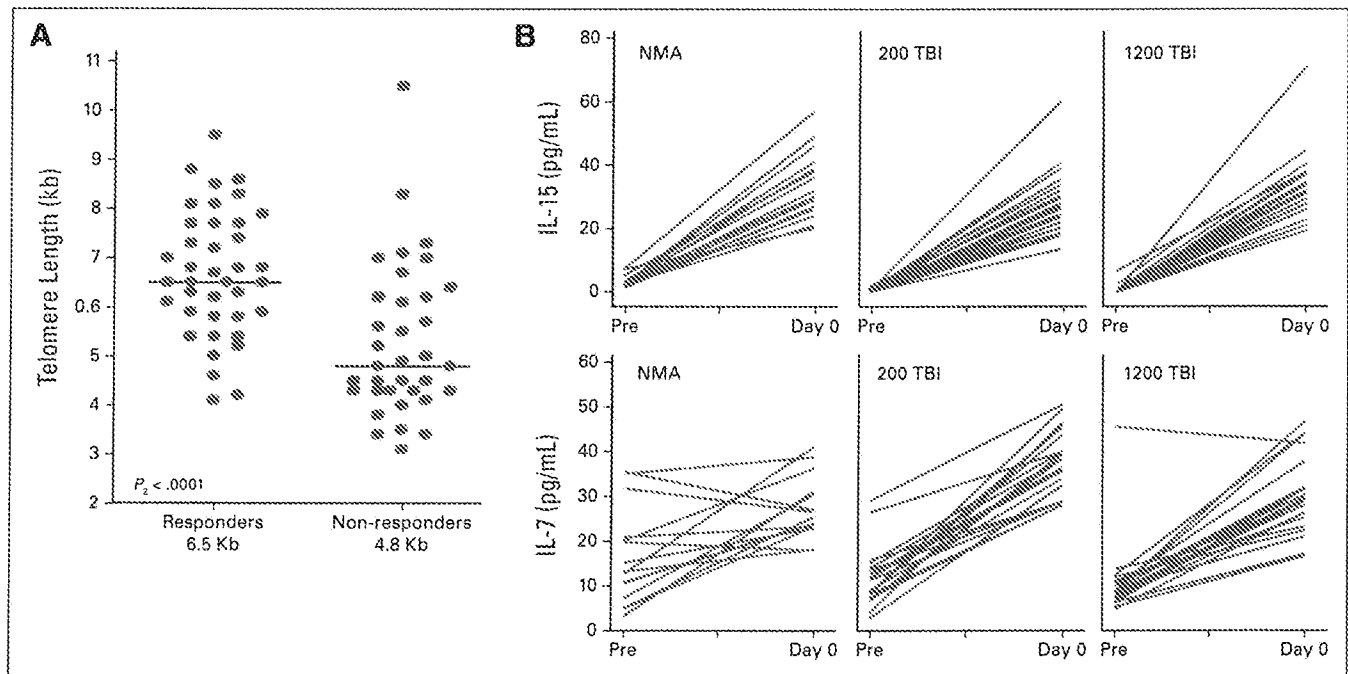


Fig 2. Adoptive cell therapy after lymphodepletion. (A) Telomere length of infused tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) correlates with clinical response. Flow-fluorescent in situ hybridization analysis was used to quantify the mean telomere length of infused TIL for patients on all three protocols. (B) Lymphodepleting conditioning markedly increases the levels of circulating homeostatic cytokines, interleukin (IL)-7 and IL-15. Serum samples were evaluated before therapy (Pre) and immediately before TIL administration (day 0). NMA, nonmyeloablative; TBI, total-body irradiation.

with autologous CD34⁺ hematopoietic stem cells. The 2-Gy TBI dose was chosen because the toxicities of this combination therapy were uncertain, including the engraftment of hematopoietic stem cells and hematopoietic reconstitution with concurrent high-dose IL-2. We found that 2-Gy TBI could be added to NMA with minimal additional toxicity or impact on hematopoietic recovery (Appendix Fig A1); however, overall response rate (49% v 52%) was also not significantly affected.

We then investigated the addition of 12-Gy TBI to the NMA chemotherapy preparative regimen, a myelosuppressive dose that is close to the maximum dose that can be safely administered to patients in conjunction with the chemotherapy. In 25 patients who received 12-Gy TBI with TIL plus hematopoietic stem cells and IL-2 therapy, there were no treatment-related deaths, and all patients recovered hematopoietic function. Several toxicities such as fatigue, anorexia, and weight loss were more prolonged in the patients who received the 12-Gy TBI treatment, and four patients required intubation for somnolence. Patients generally returned to normal daily routines by 2 to 3 months. Overall, these data demonstrate that for appropriately selected patients, myeloablative lymphodepleting preparative regimens can be administered safely before TIL and IL-2 therapy.

It is interesting to note that the response rate in the 12-Gy TBI trial was 72%, including four complete responders and at least two substantial partial responders who have small residual lesions that are negative on positron emission tomography scan and may convert to complete responses at longer follow-up. The 72% response rate observed in this small patient population is not significantly different from the 52% or 49% response rate seen in the groups with lesser lymphodepletion though the number of patients in each group is small. Comparison of our results with reports of others is difficult

because of the potential for selection bias inherent in our nonrandomized study design.

To investigate immunologic correlates of response in the treated patients, we evaluated multiple features of the infused TIL and patient treatments. All patients received lymphocytes that were highly active and capable of human leukocyte antigen-restricted release of interferon- γ after tumor stimulation. The length of telomeres in infused TIL cells from all three protocols correlated with patient response (Fig 2A), suggesting that proliferative potential of the infused TIL is critical to the success of the treatment.

By eliminating competition for endogenous serum cytokines, lymphodepletion may directly affect the survival, persistence, and proliferation of the adoptively transferred TIL cells. We measured the γ chain receptor cytokines IL-7 and IL-15, which are homeostatic regulators of CD3⁺ lymphocytes, after preparative conditioning. The levels of these cytokines went up in all three protocols, but IL-7 and IL-15 serum levels were statistically higher in 12-Gy TBI group than in the NMA group. The higher levels and availability of these cytokines to TIL cells in patients conditioned with 12-Gy TBI may have caused an increased proliferation, activation, or persistence of the transferred TIL cells, or an increased functional status at the site of tumor antigen.

The results shown herein are compelling evidence that antigen-specific T cells can affect the natural history of a solid metastatic cancer in humans. Furthermore, these studies demonstrate that in some patients, appropriately selected lymphocyte cultures can impact metastatic melanoma growth and patient survival in ways that conventional therapy including surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy as currently practiced cannot. Current approaches in our laboratory seek to improve the yield of TIL cultures for melanoma patients, to use vaccines to stimulate the transferred T cells in vivo, and to employ gene

therapy approaches to engineer antigen specificity to T cells for patients who have no autologous reactive TIL available for ACT therapy.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author(s) indicated no potential conflicts of interest.

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Appendix

Table A1. IFN- γ Release (pg/mL) From Representative TIL With Reactivity to Shared HLA-A2+ Tumors and Known Peptide Epitopes

Cells	Melanoma Cell Lines							
	HLA-A2--				HLA-A2+			
	None	888	938	526	624	None	M	G
Control T cells								
JKF6 (A2/M)	1,341	887	921	20,660	22,720	2,424	22,400	0
JR6C12 (A2/G)	1,157	1,095	903	12,890	16,320	682	0	14,930
Patient TIL								
5	156	188	314	5,160	5,690	122	14,870	335
7	200	96	137	9,630	10,660	129	15,300	1,022
10	161	108	151	5,040	3,050	125	1,137	5,090
17	114	117	159	7,050	9,090	105	22,700	1,115
20	203	163	168	5,530	6,700	142	13,810	310

NOTE. Values shown in bold are at greater than twice background and greater than 200 pg/mL.

Abbreviations: TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes; HLA, human leukocyte antigen; M, MART-1:27-35; G, gp100:209-217.

*T2 cells were pulsed with 1 μ mol of peptide antigen as targets.**Table A2.** IFN- γ Release (pg/mL) From TIL Demonstrating Specificity for Autologous Melanoma Cell Lines With Unknown Peptide Antigen Specificity

Cells	Allogeneic Melanoma Cell Line					Autologous Melanoma Cell Line					
	None	888	938	526	624	SB-1	SB-2	SB-9	SB-11	SB-18	SB-23
HLA-A loci		01 24	02 24	02 03	02 03	02 68	02 03	23 31	01 26	03 24	01 02
Patient TIL											
1	19	5	5	10	5	1,276					
2	0	0	0	98	38		3,310				
9	12	0	82	2	4			232			
11	6	4	14	7	5				11,850		
18	3	31	15	5	1					305	
23	0	14	12	0	3						1,435

NOTE. Values shown in bold are at greater than twice background and greater than 200 pg/mL.

Abbreviation: TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes.

Table A3. IFN- γ Release (pg/mL) From TIL Demonstrating Specificity for Autologous Single-Cell Fresh Tumor Digests With Unknown Peptide Antigen Specificity

Cells	Allogeneic Melanoma Cell Line					Autologous Melanoma Single-Cell Digest				
	None	888	938	526	624	FrTu-4	FrTu-16	FrTu-19	FrTu-22	FrTu-24
HLA-A loci		01 24	01 24	02 03	02 03	03 24	03 26	01 02	01 24	02 33
Patient TIL										
4	2	2	0	2	1	1,013				
16	15	10	0	12	9		384			
19	1	3	17	12	34			759		
22	1	105	431	5	82				1,138	
24	0	49	53	111	111					688

NOTE. Values shown in bold are at greater than twice background and greater than 200 pg/mL.

Abbreviation: TIL, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes.

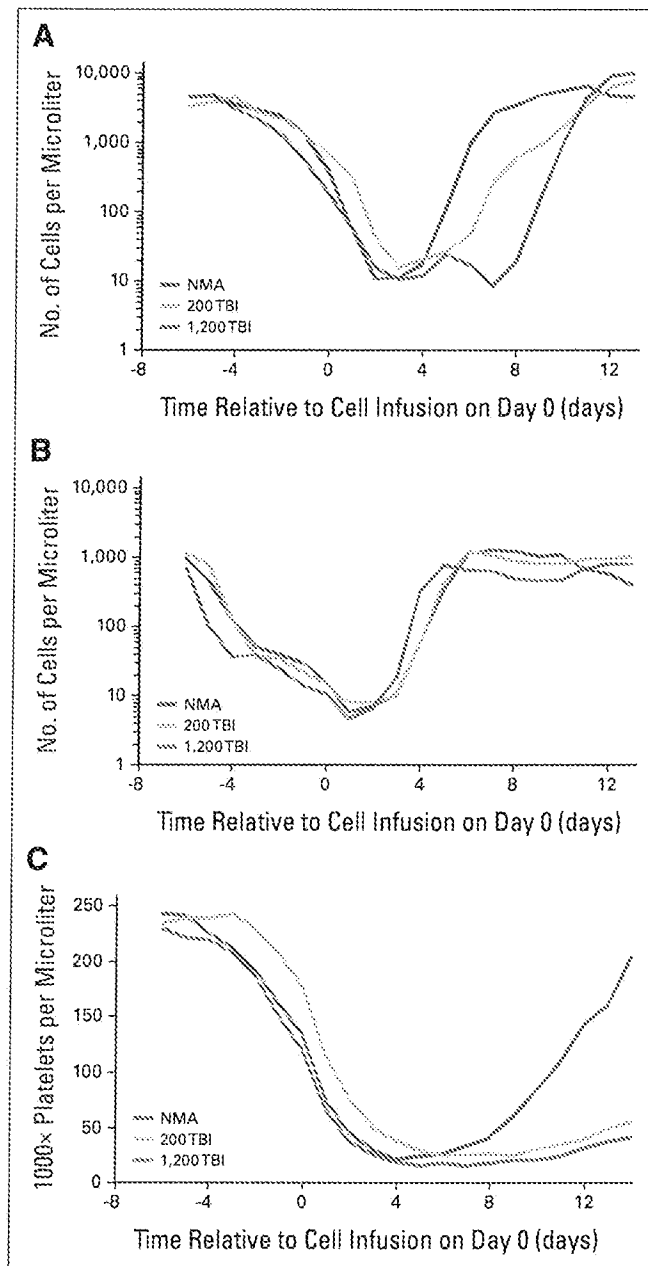


Fig A1. Transient depression of hematopoietic cell counts resulting from lymphodepletion is rapidly reversed in patients on all three clinical protocols. Mean absolute counts were calculated based on daily CBCs for all patients who received lymphodepletion and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) therapy as their first lymphodepleting cell therapy. (A) Absolute neutrophil counts, (B) absolute lymphocyte counts, and (C) platelet counts. NMA, nonmyeloablative; TBI, total-body irradiation.